Guidelines for disposal of e-waste

479. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 150,000 tonnes of electronic waste is generated in India, while the guidelines for disposal of this waste are yet to be finalized;

(b) whether Delhi, Mumbai and other big cities are burdened with e-waste that is too dangerous to be handled in congested areas and this menace is growing consistently; and

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Based on a survey conducted under the guidance of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), it has been estimated that about 1,46,000 tonnes of waste from Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is generated annually in the country. Delhi, Mumbai and other big cities have been identified as major e-waste generating areas in the country. In order to address the problem of e-waste, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) got a study on the assessment of electrical and electronic waste generation conducted. They have also undertaken the task of preparation of "Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of E-Waste" for the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committee in Union Territories. In this connection, the Ministry of Environment and Forests in the Government of India has constituted a Task Force comprising of representatives of the concerned Ministries and experts for finalization of these guidelines.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests have also notified the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2000 and 2003 which regulate the generation, collection, storage, treatment, disposal as well as export and import of hazardous wastes. The provisions under the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2000 and 2003 include e-waste. The processes generating hazardous wastes are listed in Schedule 1 of these rules. The residues and wastes generated from the operations in electronic industry are already considered as hazardous wastes and are included at s. No. 31 of Schedule 1 of these rules. Further, the import and export of e-waste is also regulated under Schedule 3 of these rules. As per the provisions of these rules, the import of e-waste is regulated under Schedule 3 of these rules wherein Electrical and Electronic Assemblies are covered under category A 1180 in the list A and B 1110 in list B of the Schedule 3. The import of such waste is permitted only for direct reuse and not for recycling or final disposal.

Presence of nitrates in Bt. cotton plants

480. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study conducted by the Andhra Pradesh Government has found the presence of nitrates and residues of organophosphates in Bt. cotton plants, resulting in the death of cattle grazed on Bt. cotton fields;

(b) whether his Ministry has been informed about this by the State Government;